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SUBJECT: EASTERN DRC NOTES - FEBRUARY 10

¶1. (U) The items contained in this report consist principally of spot information from various sources. This report is not exhaustive, nor can all the information contained therein be confirmed at this time.

DRC Spokesman: Rwanda Will Extradite Nkunda

¶2. (SBU) Government Spokesman and Minister of Information Lambert Mende publicly stated that Rwanda has agreed to extradite Nkunda to the DRC. Mende praised the successful deployment of FARDC troops along the RDC-Rwandan border, enabling the government to assume control of the important border crossing at Bunagana. Mende also pointed out that the GDRC had made significant progress in re-establishing authority in most of the areas, which the CNDP had previously controlled.

Security and Humanitarian Issues

¶3. (SBU) The UN noted preliminary reports of possible clashes between FDLR and RDF forces near Mahanga northwest of Masisi.

¶4. (SBU) UN and NGO sources reported ongoing displacement in Walikale and Masisi Territories, as well as along the North-South Kivu border, resulting from local population fears of potential clashes between RDF and FDLR troops. In Lubero Territory, displacement has occurred due to skirmishes between FARDC and FDLR elements.

¶5. (SBU) USAID/DART staff noted the onset of IDP returns to formerly CNDP-controlled areas in Rutshuru Territory, although specific figures are not yet available. OCHA announced the arrival of 1,777 households, approximately 4,200 individuals, to Hombo in Walikale Territory from areas southeast of Walikale Town. Local NGO's operating in Masisi Town also reported the arrival of IDP's from the Kashebere, Kikamata, Habula, and Burutsi areas of Walikale Territory. In Lubero Territory, OCHA has received reports that FARDC-FDLR clashes have caused population displacement from the Kasugho area to Kagheri, Kaviru, and Lubero town.

¶6. (SBU) OCHA has reportedly drawn up contingency plans to deal with two possible IDP scenarios. In the first, resurgent violence would create an additional 300,000 IDP's, as well as limited humanitarian access. In the second scenario, improved security prompts the return of an initial 50,000 IDP's in addition to 20,000 individuals who would move back and forth between IDP sites and home areas to better ascertain security conditions.

Integration Progress

¶7. (SBU) The FARDC announced that it has completed its "accelerated brassage" of CNDP troops into FARDC units on the Rutshuru axis. Among the 7 brigades undergoing brassage, 5 are in action against

the FDLR, according to FARDC sources quoted on Radio Okapi.

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